

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The replacement drawing sheet, which is presented in **Attachment A**, includes changes to Figures 6A and 6B. Specifically, changes were made to indicate the structure of power generating regions 11a, 11b, 12a, 12b, 13a and 13b. This replacement sheet, which includes Figures 6A and 6B replaces the previous sheet which also included Figures 6A and 6B.

Attachment A: Replacement Drawing Sheet

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application in light of the amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 5-8 are pending. Claims 1-4 are withdrawn. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of claim 6.

Status of the Specification

Accompanying this response, Applicants are submitting replacement drawing sheet No. 6 of 13. Drawing sheet No. 6 contains Figs. 6A and 6B. The Figures have been amended to indicate the structure of power generating regions 11a, 11b, 12a, 12b, 13a and 13b. No new matter has been added.

The Specification has been amended to correct a clerical error. Specifically, on page 19, lines 4-5, the reference item referring to the vase section should read 37b and not 37a. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections

Claims 5, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner contends that claims 5, 7 and 8 contain subject matter not supported by the original disclosure. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the previous Amendment, independent claim 5 was amended to recite "separating the power generating region in a direction crossing the direction of series connection of the solar cells on the supporting member." The Examiner contends that this step is new matter. The Examiner cites Specification page 11, beginning at line 10, as disclosing that the power generating regions are formed by separating the sub-modules. However, the Specification page 12, lines 7-11, discloses that "[t]he solar cell sub-module 13 is divided into two power generating regions 13a and 13b by a

respectfully traversed. JP '152 does not disclose what the examiner suggests, and the combination he suggests would not lead to the claimed subject matter.

Inherent in the examiner's rejection is that JP '152 provides some suggestion that the wiring members which electrically connect the solar cells modules be sealed in a resin. This is decidedly not the case, because JP '152 specifically teaches that the wiring members be in a terminal box, so there would be no reason to have the resin. Therefore, the combination of admissions and JP '152 neither discloses nor suggests sealing a wiring member which electrically connects solar cell sub-modules positioned next to each other.

Moreover, the structure utilized in JP '152 is entirely different from the prior art disclosed, for example, in Fig. 4 of the present patent application, and there is no reason to believe that those skilled in the art would have any reason to look for a usual feature in the different type of device disclosed in JP '152.

Furthermore, as may be seen in Fig. 12 of the present patent application, the wiring member 36 is sealed in resin between the base 31 and the base 37b, and the resin material bonds to the two bases. Claim 7 has been amended to clearly define this feature. At the same time, this feature is not taught or suggested either in the admitted prior art or in JP '152. Accordingly, Claim 7 is believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Each and every point raised in the Final Office Action dated October 28, 2004 has been addressed on the basis of the above amendments and remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 5-8 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

By

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ATTACHMENT A